

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In cutting devices (10), it is necessary to preset the specimen (14) onto the knife (16). The use of a light barrier (30) is proposed in order to facilitate and automate this presetting operation, which is intended to ensure maximally rapid and accurate positioning of the knife (16) relative to the specimen (14). The light barrier (30) is positioned between the knife (16) and the specimen (14), and is preferably arranged parallel to the knife edge (15). As soon as the light barrier (30) is interrupted, a defined spacing (25) between knife (16) and specimen (14) is ascertained, and is used to shut off the automatic feed or to switch over to a different drive system.

(FIG. 2)